

BRYAN

PREPARING CONVENTION SPEECH
TO BE FIGURE AT ST. LOUIS.
HOPES TO

REPEAT HISTORY AND SWEEP
THE DELEGATES AGAIN OFF
THEIR FEET.

CHICAGO, Ill., May 24.—What is Bryan going to do? Until coming West I thought he was getting ready to bolt the St. Louis candidate and platform. That is still a reasonable opinion, but I have been told here that he has not yet reached that point. What Bryan is preparing for now is to make a big speech at the St. Louis convention. When it falls on deaf ears the bolt may come, but it is characteristic of the silver leader's supreme confidence that he doesn't yet recognize that he will find his party unmoved by his eloquence.

One of the men who has Mr. Bryan's friendship, and who in a measure enjoys his confidence, informed me that everything still was in the dark. He had met Bryan when the latter came to Chicago to make the anti-Parker speech, and at the end of a friendly talk had been unable to make up his mind what was to happen. By a process of reasoning, he had satisfied himself that there was only one thing in view, and that this was a bolt. But nothing Mr. Bryan said justified him in making such a prediction. This man, who is not a politician, had been with Mr. Bryan during the campaign of 1896 and afterward. He is one of those who would follow the Nebraska out of any party or into any party. He changed his politics in 1896 purely out of personal admiration.

It was from this talk that I felt the first doubts about Bryan's deliberate intentions to jump the fence. But when he mentioned the silver leader's plans for a great speech it was possible to see how Mr. Bryan himself was still withholding the bolt. What he expects to talk about is the platform. That always has been his favorite text. In the early struggles with Sterling Morton in Nebraska, Bryan always talked platform. When the Cleveland influence threw him out of the Democratic State convention he was talking the same subject. Later when he got control and crushed the gold Democrats, it was all on a matter of platform. In the Chicago convention it may be recalled by those who were there that the speech which gave Bryan the nomination was on the platform. The combination of Democratic Senators and ex-Republican Senators who were using Bryan to kill off Bland thought that some talking about the various planks would be a good way to lead up to the nomination of Teller. But after Bryan's speech they wished they had not been so enthusiastic about alleged principles.

Always Talks Platforms.
Mr. Bryan told me during his campaign in 1896, when he displayed such astonishing powers of endurance and of adapting himself to different audiences, that if I would notice his speeches he always had platform in them. He said that in his first campaign for Congress, when he gained the experience which served him to such purpose later, he never made a cross-roads address without making clear his platform. He thought Maj. McKinley a very good man, and used to pretend to wonder how such a good man could stand on such a platform. That of course, was a trick of campaign speaking, but it showed the bent of Bryan's mind.

Now that he is anticipating making another great oratorical effort in the St. Louis convention, it is not hard to see how he will turn to the platform for his text. I have been assured by those who think they know his purposes that he is not worried about the prospective organization of the convention against him. He knows that he can not be denied a hearing, and when once that is granted he looks forward to a triumph, against which carefully prearranged plans will not avail.

Some signs seem to show that he is right. A disinterested observer has to note that Bryan still maintains a fair degree of popularity with one element of his party. This has been demonstrated in the Hearst meetings. The paid lecturers who have been working up Mr. Hearst's boom, have had evidences of this popularity. Their general plan, presumably under instructions from headquarters, has been the old one of speaking well of all the candidates, while building the pyramid, with their own man at the apex. In some sections they have had to leave out Grover Cleveland, but never Bryan. The result has been that the artificial enthusiasm for Mr. Hearst has evaporated, and the genuine article has been manifested for Mr. Bryan. I heard of two or three instances in which this has happened, and was curious enough to make further inquiries. In every case it was admitted that the same thing had been observed.

Now, Bryan knows all about these Hearst meetings and what takes place in them. He knows that his own name is still the one to conjure with in the masses of the party who have

a leaning for socialism. Having information about these demonstrations, it is more than likely that he overestimates his popular strength when matched against the growing sentiment of the Democrats that they must get together and win and enjoy the offices.

There are some indications that in his speech at St. Louis Mr. Bryan intends to appeal particularly to the South. He always has been friendly to that section. While denouncing the mythical plutocrats for their alleged oppression of the labor vote, Mr. Bryan invariably accepted with philosophical complacency the suppression of the negro vote. It was not for him and he found no trouble in putting himself in the atmosphere of those who justified nullifying the amendments to the constitution. While at Lincoln during the campaign of 1896 I was shown some of the editorials he had written favoring the nomination of a Southern man for President. That was before he fully perceived the disorganized conditions which were to make his own candidacy possible.

It is characteristic of Mr. Bryan's sanguine temperament that he does not yet realize the change in the South. From all I have heard here he still thinks that the Southern delegates to St. Louis will be swayed by his eloquence. My own opinion would be that this is much more likely to happen with some of the Western delegations than with the Southern ones. But Mr. Bryan thinks he knows the South, and he may be right. Seemingly in preparing for another great convention speech he makes no allowance for the change in circumstances. His oratory was effective at Chicago in 1896 because the majority of that convention were in full sympathy with him and his ideas and his platform. He rode the whirlwind better than Bland, who was a very sincere man without emotional characteristics. There was some good oratory on the part of the minority, but it counted for nothing in the cyclone.

Mr. Bryan thinks that he is a greater orator than Bourke Cockran and many people agree with him. Mr. Cockran was very eloquent at Chicago in 1884, yet his eloquence directed against Mr. Cleveland's nomination was futile when addressed to the combination of delegates which W. C. Whitney had made. At Chicago in 1892 in that memorable night session it was even more powerful and torrential, again protesting against Cleveland's nomination, but it was Tammany thunder wasted, for no votes were changed.

Realizing these incidents, I asked one of Mr. Bryan's Western admirers if he thought there really was any chance of breaking the line which would surround Bryan at St. Louis. He answered that there was, that Bryan would be thundering eloquence for a principle, while on both occasions Bourke Cockran had been merely voicing personal opposition to a candidate. He reminded me that the Tammany orator had argued only against Cleveland's supposed lack of vote-getting qualities and had pleaded for a more available candidate. But with Bryan the whole plea would be for principles, that is to say, for a platform.

This suggestion was interesting and not without force. Yet it is not convincing as an argument that Mr. Bryan can take the control of the St. Louis convention away from the combination that is now being formed. But from all indications in the West he will succeed in making it a vastly interesting gathering, and there are likely to be wild scenes again.

Assuming that Mr. Bryan's confidence in his speechmaking proves misplaced, the question again will come up whether he will bolt. According to his own statements, the candidate is nothing and the platform is everything. Yet there is a good deal of human nature in him, and if, by any chance, two-thirds of the convention should nominate any one who was identified with the Palmer and Buckner movement, even on a Bryan platform, Mr. Bryan would make things uncomfortable for that candidate. During all the campaign of 1896 his resentment against the Palmer and Buckner leaders blazed out. Even Bourke Cockran has not been forgiven by him. Almost the only occasions when he showed personal feeling were when he came into contact with the Palmer and Buckner movement.—Charles M. Pepper.

NOTICE.

We, the undersigned merchants of Fairmont, do hereby agree to close our stores all day May 30, 1904:

J. M. Hartley & Son, Geo. G. Yeager, J. E. Anderson, E. Trickett, T. W. Arnett, Gettings & Walters, Morrett Bros., Geo. S. Lantz, F. R. Clelland, The Famous, Mrs. Horan, Rihel-daffer & Brownfield, J. G. McCorrey & Co., F. K. Lowe, Chas. C. Robb, Q. Hernean & Co., N. C. Cochran, W. A. Fisher, W. M. Fleming, E. C. Stemple, Latham & Meneer, J. H. Beckman, E. E. Trickett & Co., Sam. B. Iseman, Martin Bros., G. L. Jolliffe & Co., Union Clothing House, D. R. Broth, Geo. Mansbach, Fred C. Fleming, S. F. Nuzum, Fairmont Furniture Co., J. L. Hall, Chas. B. Highland, Randall & Co., Coal City House Furnishing Co., Boice Bros., C. C. Denham.

WABASH USES ITS NEW LINE

President Joseph Ramsey, Jr., Expected in Pittsburgh On Thursday.

The first passenger train operated on the Pittsburgh division of the Wabash railroad was run Sunday from Independence street, Mt. Washington, to a point within one mile of the Mingo Junction bridge. On the train were C. S. Crane, general passenger agent of the Wabash, and Traveling District Passenger Agent W. P. Wood, of St. Louis; J. W. Patterson, Jr., chief engineer; W. D. Holiday, assistant general freight agent; F. H. Tristram, assistant general passenger agent, and several other persons connected with the Pittsburgh division of the Wabash. The track was found to be in excellent condition, although there is considerable work to be done at points between Mingo Junction and Pittsburgh.

Announcement was made last week that a work train would be run across the Monongahela river bridge today. The officials announce that the work is near enough completed to operate the trains to-day, but as they are in no hurry they will not cross the river until the latter part of the week. President Joseph Ramsey, Jr., of the Wabash railroad, is expected to arrive in Pittsburgh the latter part of the week, and will probably be here when the first train crosses the river. It is also expected that President Ramsey will complete arrangements for opening the road June 19, and probably announce who will fill the various positions in the new station.

On Thursday the Wabash will open bids for the structural work for its Southside branch. This work will require about 5,000 tons of material.—Pittsburgh Times.

CALL FOR REPUBLICAN DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

To the Republican voters of Marion county:

Conventions of the Republican party of the several magisterial districts of Marion county are hereby called to meet on Saturday, the 4th day of June, 1904, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of electing delegates to the following named conventions:

To the State nominating convention, to be held in Wheeling on the 12th day of July, 1904.

To the Judicial convention to be held in Morgantown on the 8th day of June, 1904, at 10 o'clock A. M.

To the Senatorial convention to be hereafter called.

Also to transact such other business as may properly come before said district conventions.

The said several district conventions will be held at the respective places hereinafter named; and will elect the number of delegates hereinafter designated, and no more, that is to say:

Fairmont district convention will meet at the Court-house in the City of Fairmont, and is entitled to elect the following number of delegates:

To the State convention, 6.
To the Judicial convention, 9.
To the Senatorial convention, 9.
Grant district convention will meet in Monongah (meeting place to be provided by district committeeman).

State convention, 2.
Judicial convention, 5.
Senatorial convention, 5.

Lincoln district convention will meet at Farmington school house:

State convention, 3.
Judicial convention, 5.
Senatorial convention, 5.

Mannington district will meet at Town of Mannington at school house.

State convention, 8.
Judicial convention, 11.
Senatorial convention, 11.

Pawpaw district will meet at Neptune school house.

State convention, 2.
Judicial convention, 3.
Senatorial convention, 3.

Union district will meet in the First ward of the City of Fairmont, at the school house.

State convention, 4.
Judicial convention, 6.
Senatorial convention, 6.

Winfield district convention will meet in Mt. Harmony school house.

State convention, 3.
Judicial convention, 5.
Senatorial convention, 5.

It is requested that in making selection of delegates, that only those be selected who are likely to attend the convention to which they are made delegates. The call for the State convention states that no proxies will be admitted as delegates.

By order of the Executive Committee.
HARRY SHAW, Chairman.
A. L. LEHMAN, Secretary.
Dated April 30, 1904.

May Not Have Quorum.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 24.—Inability to transact business for want of a quorum in the Methodist Conference is threatened after Friday. Many delegates are asking leave of absence to see Southern California attractions.

M'COY AND FITZ

They May Battle on July 4 Out in San Francisco.

Kid McCoy's next battle will probably be with Fitzsimmons. San Francisco wants the bout, and neither McCoy nor Fitzsimmons sees any reason why he should not accept a good offer for the privilege of pummeling the other. Fitzsimmons and McCoy will box for the middleweight championship when they come together.

Although the McCoy-O'Brien six-round battle at Philadelphia recently went the limit, there is no doubt as to who had the better of the contest at the conclusion.

The general opinion among the spectators was that McCoy outpointed and outfought the Philadelphian, and that he would have put O'Brien out had he not grown tired in the final rounds.

There is talk of a return match between O'Brien and McCoy, to take place at St. Louis. If the pair meet again the contest will be limited to 15 or 20 rounds instead of 6.

The Philadelphia bouts, according to the experts, are too brief to test the merits of two clever boxers such as McCoy and O'Brien. It is an easy matter for a man of McCoy's cleverness and ability to avoid an opponent for six rounds, when it is considered that Joe Grim has never been stopped in six rounds, although he has met the hardest hitters in the ring.

A dispatch has been received in New York from Morris Levi, Matchmaker of the Hayes Valley Athletic Club, of San Francisco, offering a purse for a 20-round mill between the Kid and Lankey Bob, the same to take place on July 4. McCoy has accepted and he wants the club to let him know further details, and if everything is rosy he will sign articles at once. As McCoy is going to help Jack Munroe get in trim for Jeffries he thinks that a match on the Pacific Coast would be just the proper caper, as he has made arrangements to remain in California until the fall.

Should Bob accept, which is likely, he may demand a liberal guarantee, which Levi is prepared to give. The only barrier to the encounter which sports fear is the weight question. Fitz may ask McCoy to get to 158 pounds, the same as the latter did for his six-round essay with Jack O'Brien at Philadelphia. McCoy made the weight all right, but was a bit weak as a consequence.



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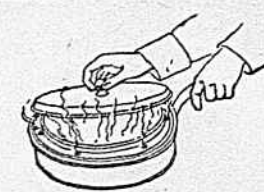
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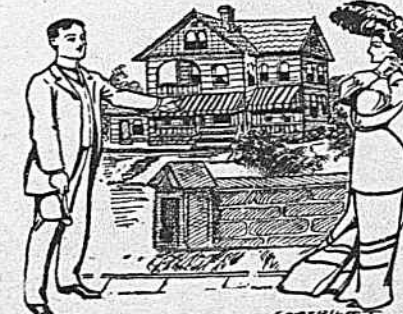
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